

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 AID-05 EUR-12 DHA-02 DPW-01 IGA-02

EB-07 ABF-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 L-03 H-02

SP-02 NSC-05 PRS-01 FDRE-00 ORM-02 CIEP-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 COME-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGR-05 PM-04 DODE-00

MED-02 HEW-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /109 W

----- 105639

P R 071325Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8537

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 1242

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, EAID, LE

SUBJ: ICRC APPEAL FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE IN LEBANON

REF: BEIRUT 0887, BEIRUT 1136; GENEVA 0708; STATE 028786

1. DELEGATE MARTI ACCOMPANIED BY LOCAL ICRC REP
DESMEULES, VISITED EMBASSY YESTERDAY AFTERNOON TO
AGAIN BRIEF CHARGE ON STATUS ICRC PROGRAM HERE.

2. MARTI CONFIRMED THAT HOSPITAL HAS BEEN ERECTED AND
BEGAN OPERATING TWO DAYS AGAO ON A LIMITED, OR AS
MARTI DESCRIBED IT, AN INFIRMARY BASIS. HOSPITAL IS
SITED IN SOUTHERN BEACHES AREA NEAR IRAQI EMBASSY
WHERE MANY REFUGEES FROM KARANTINA HAVE GATHERED.

3. ICRC HAS ALSO RECEIVED APPROXIMATELY 100 TONS OF
RELIEF SUPPLIES INCLUDING 10,000 BLANKETS AND 120 TONS
OF POWDERED MILK. MARTI ADMITTED THAT THIS IS
OBVIOUSLY AN OVERABUDNANCE OF POWDERED MILK, BUT IT
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IS APPARENTLY A COMMODITY IN SURPLUS SUPPLY IN

EUROPE AND LUZEMBOURG ALONE WAS SENDING 70 TONS.O

4. MARTI, WHO IS GOING

TO CAIRO TODAY TO SEE ARAB

LEAGUE SECRETARY RIAD, STATED THE GOL HAD REQUESTED MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE NORTH LEBANON AKAR REGION, AS WELL AS FOR THE SOUTH. HE INDICATED ICRC WOULD TRY TO RESPOND TO THIS REQUEST BY USING MOBILE TEAMS, A TECHNIQUE USED IN CYPRUS WITH GOOD RESULTS. MARTI MENTIONED SEVERAL TIMES THAT ICRC LOOKED ON ANY YVCH EFFORT AS BEING A VERY SHORT TERM ACTIVITY.

5. WHEN THE QUESTION OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND FINANCING

CAME UP, MARTI MADE A LOW KEY BUT VERY SPECIFIC RE-

QUEST FOR USG DIRECT SUPPORT FOR ICRC EFFORT IN

LEBANON. HE USED THE \$200,000 FIGURE MENTIONED IN

PARA 4, REF A, AS A MINIMUM. HE MADE IT QUITE CLEAR

ALSO THAT A CASH CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE THE MOST USEFUL TYPE AT THIS TIME.

6. AT ONE POINT DURING MEETING MARTI EXPRESSED BITTER-

NESS OVER FACT AMBULANCES WERE REPEATEDLY FIRED ON BY

BOTH SIDES DURING FIGHTING. HE SAID HE KNEW OF NO

OTHER CASE IN THE WORLD WHERE THIS HAD HAPPENED AND

SAID HE WAS PLANNING TO SAY AS MUCH TO VARIOUS LEADERS

OF FACTIONS ON BOTH SIDES WHOM HE WOULD BE SEEING SOON.

7. MARRTI AND DESMEULES TALKED BRIEFLY ABOUT EAST BLOC

RELIEF EFFORTS WHICH APPARENTLY ARE DIRECTED TOWARD

VERY SPECIFIC GROUPS AND LOCALES. HE INDICATED THAT

ICRC WAS GETTING SOME RUSSIAN SUPPORT FORR ITS LEBANON

PROGRRAM, BUT WAS NOT SURE WHETHER THIS WAS FROM THE

ANNUAL SUPPORT PLEDGE OR A SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION.

8. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE THE GOL HAS NOT ASKED US FOR

DIRECT ASSISTANCE WITH REFUGEE AND DISPLACED PERSONS

PROBLEM. EMBASSY BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT EVEN IF SUCH

A REQUEST WERE MADE THERE ARE STRONG ARGUMENTS FOR OUR

NON-INVOLVEMENT ON A BILATERAL BASIS. IN VSIEW OF THEE

EXISTENCE OF WHAT APPEARS TO BE A BETTER ORGANIZED

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ICRC EFFORT AND THE FACT THAT ICRC HAS MADE ITS INTER-

NATIONAL APPEAL, WE BELIEVE THAT A CONTRIBUTION AT THIS

TIME IS DESIRABLE BOTH FROM THE STANDPOINT OF SUPPORTING

THE ICRC AND FORESTALLING THE NEED FOR ANY BILATERAL

INPUT.

9. IN LIGHT OF THE SURFEIT OF POWDERED MILK, WE WOULD

HOPE THAT OUR CONTRIBUTION WOULD IN FACT BE IN CASH

RATHER THAN IN KIND.

10. THIS WOULD NOT RULE OUT FURTHER USG CONTRIBUTIONS
TO OTHER INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS THAT
MIGHT BE PROPOSED FOR THE LEBANON AS FOR EXAMPLE UNDER
AUSPICES OF THE UNHCR.
LAMBRAKIS

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